

A Message from Governor O'Malley

t is my pleasure to announce this three year annual report detailing the achievements of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). MET contributes to a Smart, Green & Growing Maryland by protecting valuable rural landscapes that are composed of farms, forests, wetlands and meadows. Smart, Green & Growing is an effort to keep portions of Maryland as ecologically sound as possible, to ensure a healthy population of plants and animals, to keep our State beautiful, and to ensure our lands for our children before they are consumed by sprawling development.

MET has played a significant role in land conservation in Maryland since its donated conservation easement program was established in 1972. It is an integral component of the Smart, Green & Growing initiative and has helped hundreds of families to protect their properties over the years. During these difficult economic times, MET provides great value to both landowners and the State. The donated conservation easement program allows landowners to take advantage of generous tax benefits and allows the State to conserve ecologically valuable areas without expending state funds.

I am proud of the work accomplished by MET, and by all of the State programs that contribute to a Maryland that is Smart, Green & Growing. Working together, as One Maryland, we can create a healthier society, a healthier planet, and a stronger economy, to pass along to our children and theirs.



Martin O'Malley Governor

A Message from the Director

This publication chronicles three years of achievements by the MET. 2006, 2007 and 2008 were busy and productive years in the history of MET. In the pages that follow, you will read about our ongoing work to protect Maryland's open spaces, farms, forests, and scenic landscapes. Our many accomplishments would not be possible without the ongoing support of our dedicated Board of Trustees, our local land trust partners, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and most importantly - our donors. Thank you for your support and interest in preserving Maryland's natural, historic and cultural resources!

For those unfamiliar with the MET, this report will provide an introduction to an organization well-known for its leadership in conservation. Created by statue in 1967, MET was established to "conserve, improve, stimulate and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic and cultural qualities of the environment, including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, open spaces." MET accepted its first easement donation in 1972, at a time when land protection and conservation easements were in their infancy. Its signature easement donation program was established in the mid-70's, and since that time MET has grown as a national leader in the field. Today, MET is one of the largest land trusts in the nation in regard to the number of easements held.

The recent achievements detailed in this report include permanently protecting 11,774 acres of land on 128 properties with conservation easements, providing direct assistance to dozens of local land trusts in Maryland, planning and implementing an annual land conservation conference, organizing many regional outreach and educational events, providing \$102,000 in annual grants to local land trusts and community groups to support landowner outreach, land protection, and greening projects.

MET is proud to be one

of the oldest and most distinguished statewide land trusts in the country. Our 40+ years of experience have given us the expertise, local networks, and momentum to help confront the threats to Maryland's natural, cultural and scenic resources. Our continuously expanding conservation easement program illustrates that many citizens value land conservation and recognize that they can play a role in shaping Maryland's future. MET continues to work with our partners to further a Maryland that is smart, green and growing, and to protect our valuable natural resources as a legacy for future generations.



Elizabeth Buxton Director

Elyebith Buytos

History of MET

Astimulate and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic and cultural qualities of the environment, including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, open spaces, buildings or any interest therein, and other appurtenances pertaining in any way to the State."

Created as a quasi-public entity, MET is both a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and governed by a private Board of Trustees. This unique arrangement allows MET the resources and flexibility necessary to be a highly successful and trusted land conservation partner.

MET accepted its first easement donation in 1972, at a time when land protection and conservation easements were still in their infancy. Its signature easement donation program was established in the mid-1970's, and since that time MET has grown as a national leader in the field. Today, MET is one of the largest land trusts in the nation and has permanently protected over 120,000 acres of land on nearly 1,000 properties statewide.

Over the past 40 years, MET has expanded into other program areas, in order to increase capacity for land conservation in Maryland:

- Monitoring and Stewardship Program, to protect and enforce existing easements
- Local Land Trust Assistance Program, which has helped create, nurture and support over 50 local land trusts statewide
- Small Grants Programs, including Keep Maryland Beautiful and the Janice Hollman Grant
- Land Trust Grant Fund revolving loan fund for easement or fee-simple purchase
- Training and Education MET sponsors an annual conference and periodic trainings to keep its land trust partners current on all the latest innovations in the field

MET has helped to create more than 50 vibrant local land trusts that work to protect the natural resources, culture, and history of their respective corners of the state. MET now partners with those land trusts on nearly three-quarters of all its easement projects. Additionally, through trainings, conferences, and grant-making, MET helps to build the capacity of those organizations.



Conservation Easement Program

Overview

As Marylanders, we all know how lucky we are to call this state home. From the forested mountain tops of Garrett County to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland boasts an ecological diversity and scenic beauty rivaled by few states in the nation. MET works with private property owners to permanently protect these valuable natural resources with conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legal agreement entered into voluntarily by a landowner and a government entity or land trust that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its scenic, agricultural,

woodland, wetland and habitat conservation values. An easement allows landowners to continue to own, use, and manage their property, and sell it or pass it on to their heirs. Conservation easements offer great flexibility and are tailored to fit a landowner's vision and goals for the property. The donation of a conservation easement is a reflection of a landowner's commitment to conserving scenic vistas and water quality for public benefit, ensuring the future viability of farming and forestry, and preserving the rural character and natural beauty of communities all across Maryland.

Central Region

2006

A total of 15 properties were protected in the central region in FY 2006 and landowners in Baltimore County continued the high level of conservation activity seen in previous years. A total of 296.53 acres were permanently protected.

Twelve of the 15 central region easements recorded in FY 2006 are located in Baltimore County, totaling 210.3 acres. Many of these easements were donated on properties located within historic districts, including the Worthington Valley Historic District, the My Lady's Manor Historic District, the Greenspring Valley Historic District, and the Western Run/Belfast Road Historic District. Other properties conserved in Baltimore County include 35 acres north of Glyndon, 16 acres of farmland adjacent to an agricultural preservation easement property, and 26 acres of forest next to Honeygo Park. Lastly, one conservation easement was purchased by the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy on a property located within the Manor Rural Legacy Area, and which includes a tributary to Gunpowder Falls.

In Harford County, an easement on 15 acres of farmland protected a stream segment of the Little Gunpowder Falls. In Howard County, 12 acres of farmland and forest adjacent to Patapsco State Park were protected. Fifty-nine acres of farmland were protected in Cecil County.

2007

A total of 14 properties, totaling 340.82 acres, were permanently protected in the central region in FY 2007. Many of the properties added to the central region portfolio in FY 2007 are contiguous to other protected lands and protect valuable scenic vistas.

Twelve of the 14 central region easements recorded in FY 2007 are located in Baltimore County, totaling 333.60 acres. The 49-acre Carrico easement property protects a portion of Piney Run and more than 40 acres of farmland. The Gillet easement protects 152 acres of pasture and cropland and extinguishes up to 10 development rights. The property is contiguous to thousands of acres of protected land and is visible from the Horses and Hounds Scenic Byway. The Collins family protected an additional 35 acres adjacent to 15 acres that were placed



The Shaull family, who had placed 26 acres under easement in 1991, completed the protection of their Harford County property in 2008.

under easement previously. The easement property is located within the Worthington Valley Historic District and contains more than 600 feet of a Western Run tributary.

Baltimore City saw its first easement protected in twelve years in FY 2007. The 4-acre Cohen property, located on the City's west

side, is entirely forested and located near the Gwynns Falls. Jim Highsaw, long-time central region planner, retired at the end of FY 2007. During his years at MET Jim completed hundreds of easements covering tens of thousands of acres.

2008

This fiscal year saw a significant increase in acreage protected in the central region, bolstered by large easement acquisitions in Cecil and Baltimore counties. A total of 17 properties, totaling 1,196.2 acres, were permanently protected in the central region in FY 2008.

In Cecil County 712.8 acres were permanently protected on three properties. MET joined forces with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to protect Riveredge, a 532-acre horse farm in Cecil County, which was previously on track to become a 58-lot residential development. Riveredge lies on the eastern end of the Cayots Corner Preservation Area, the largest contiguous block of protected agricultural land on the Eastern Shore, now totaling more than 5,000 acres. The farm will be converted into a premier sporthorse operation to include training, breeding, and events.

Twelve properties were protected by conservation easements in Baltimore County in FY 2008, totaling 439.7 acres. The largest of these, the 142-acre Griswold property, protects water quality along Western Run and 1,500 feet of frontage along the Horses and Hounds Scenic Byway. The Griswold property is host to the Grand National, a crown jewel of Maryland steeplechase dating back to 1898. MET and the Caves Valley Land Trust protected 49 acres of oak dominated hardwood forest. There are nearly 800 acres of protected land within one mile of the property and the north fork of the Jones Falls runs across the property. The Rosenberg family donated an easement on 56 acres in the Greenspring Valley that prohibits all residential uses and protects habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species. Three properties were protected in partnership with The Manor Conservancy in the My Lady's Manor Historic District.

A conservation easement on 28 acres in Montgomery County protects habitat for forest interior dwelling birds and water quality. Howard County added 15 acres of conservation land in FY 2008.

The 56-acre Rosenberg property, located in Baltimore County's Greenspring Valley, was permanently protected in 2007.



Eastern Region

2006

Eastern Region Planner John Hutson completed 13 donated conservation easements protecting a total of 1138.9 acres. One conservation easement was purchased to protect 258 acres. Eleven of the 14 total easements are co-held with local land trust partners.

In Dorchester County MET protected 541 acres with five easements. Three of the five are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The 258-acre King easement was purchased using a combination of Federal Farm and Ranch Land Production Program funds and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy private funds.

In Talbot and Queen Anne's Counties

MET protected 471 acres and 220 acres respectively. The five
Talbot County easements are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land
Conservancy. Two of the three Queen Anne's County easements
are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

In Wicomico County MET protected 163.8 acres with one easement. This easement is co-held with the Lower Shore Land Trust.

2007

Eastern Region Planner John Hutson completed nine donated conservation easements protecting a total of 1381.4 acres. One conservation easement was purchased to protect 250.4 acres. Six of the ten total easements are co-held with Local Land Trust partners.

In Queen Anne's County MET protected 293.5 acres with two easements. The 250.4-acre Aspen Institute, Inc. easement was purchased. MET received a grant from the United State Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to acquire this easement in order to protect habitat of the federally listed endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. MET co-holds this easement with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The 43-acre Pupke easement is co-held with Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage.

In Dorchester County MET protected 801.8 acres with three easements. The 545-acre Keelty easement MET co-holds with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

In Worcester and Somerset Counties MET protected 113.6 acres and 288 acres respectively. The two Worcester County easements and the one Somerset County easement are co-held with the Lower Shore Land Trust.

MET protected 86.7 acres in Caroline County with one easement and in Talbot County MET protected 48 acres with one easement.



Butternut squash is just one of the many crops grown on the Wildman property in Wicomico County, which was protected in 2006.

2008

Eastern Region Planner John Hutson and Volunteer Coordinator Beki Howey completed 22 donated conservation easements protecting a total of 2917.7 acres. One conservation easement was purchased to protect 125.2 acres. Eighteen of the 23 total easements are co-held with Local Land Trust partners.

In Dorchester County MET protected 735 acres with six easements. Three of the six are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The 125-acre Scott easement was purchased using a combination of Federal Farm and Ranch Land Production Program funds and Maryland's Rural Legacy funds. The Scott easement is co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The 135-acre Biophilia Foundation easement was the result of MET's Land Trust Grant Fund. This easement is co-held with Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage.

In Talbot and Queen Anne's Counties MET protected 307 acres and 797 acres respectively. Two of the four Talbot County easements are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. All five Queen Anne's County easements are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Likewise, in Kent County MET protected 623 acres with five easements, all of which are co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. In Caroline County MET protected 93 acres with one easement. This easement is also co-held with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

MET protected 464 acres in Somerset County with one easement and in Worcester County MET protected 23.8 acres with one easement. Both easements are co-held with the Lower Shore Land Trust.

Western Region

2006

There were five new easements totaling 378.2 acres recorded in the Western Region this fiscal year. The westernmost property in Garrett County is 41.17 acres and was restored after environmental damage from mining activities prior to the easement. Since the restoration, it provides unique habitat protection along the Casselman River. The easement is co-held with the Patuxent Conservation Corps.

Three new easements were accepted in Frederick County. The first was a 25.04 acre easement adjacent to 49.2 acres already under an MET easement through the same donors. The other two easements are co-held with Catoctin Land Trust and comprise 140.99 acres and 128.3 acres respectively. Both properties are within the Monocacy River watershed. Combined they protect 150 acres of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds Species (FIDS) habitat and 120 acres of productive agricultural land and are adjacent to other easements protected through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program. The final easement protecting 43.7 forested acres in Carroll County is co-held with the Carroll County Land Trust.

2007

There were four new easements totaling 309.64 acres recorded in the Western Region this fiscal year. In Garrett County a 66.56 acre mostly forested property was protected with the Allegheny Highland Conservancy. The property supports unique native plant habitat, FIDS habitat and state rare species habitat. It is adjacent to the Savage River State Forest.

Two easements were donated in Washington County comprising 118.25 and 98.58 acres respectively. The first property contains 100 acres of forestland which is part of a larger forest landscape encompassing the Sideling Hill and Woodmont Natural Resource Management Areas owned and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. A number of rare, threatened and endangered species are known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. The property also contains 20 acres of agricultural fields. The other Washington County easement is a forested property protecting FIDS habitat as well as providing water quality protection along tributaries of Tonoloway Creek.

In Frederick County a 26.25 acre property adjacent to a MALPF easement property and in close proximity to a Frederick County agricultural preservation easement property, protects FIDS habitat along with providing water quality protection along tributaries to Tuscarora Creek.

2008

This fiscal year saw a marked increase of donations of the Western Region over the previous two years. There were easements recorded in each county in the region which included eleven new easements totaling 796.026 acres. Two adjacent easements in Garrett County help to protect over 120 acres along Deep Creek Lake including important Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Species (FIDS) habitat. The properties are within a mile of over 1,000 acres of protected land including another MET easement and Deep Creek Lake State Park. These easements are co-held with the Allegheny Highlands Conservancy (AHC). MET also partnered with AHC to co-hold another easement in Garrett County involving 24.23 acres in the eastern part of the county. This property protects potential habitat for FIDS as well as the State-listed threatened Mountain Chorus Frog. Along with being in close proximity to the Savage River State Forest and a MALPF easement property, this easement provides for a protected buffer along the Savage River which passes through the property.

An easement in Allegany County now protects 132.806 acres of productive agricultural land, FIDS habitat and buffer protection along a tributary of Sideling Hill Creek. The easement is co-held with The Nature Conservancy.

A purchased easement in Washington County now protects to adjacent properties of 125.1 acres and 10.58 acres respectively. The easements protect productive agricultural land and provide water quality protection along Little Beaver Creek and Beaver Creek, tributaries of Antietam Creek.



Some Day Soon farm, owned by Suzanne and Steven Quarles, is a premier Hanoverian sport horse breeding farm in Frederick County.

Two properties were protected through easements in Frederick County including a 20.12 acre farm co-held with the Carrolton Manor Land Trust which contains an Underground Railroad Safe House and is now owned by the seventh generation of the family. A property of 247.36 acres of productive agricultural and forest land was also protected in Frederick County. This easement is added to a block of 650 acres of easement protected land and serves to protect the water quality of Woodville Branch and South Fork.

Two easements in Carroll County protect 50.397 and 23.61 acres respectively. Both are co-held with the Carroll County Land Trust and protect productive agricultural and forest land, including FIDS habitat.



Paul Facchina, Sr. donated his eighth conservation easement in 2007, on 180 acres in St. Mary's County.

Southern Region

2006

A total of seven properties protecting 745 acres were permanently protected in the southern region in FY 2006. Five of the easements were donated by Charles County landowners, protecting 640 acres of this total. The largest of these is 234 acres donated by Mike and Laura Sullivan on a portion of their Mt. Victoria Farm. With this gift the Sullivan's and MET have permanently protected 444 contiguous acres of the historic farm located southeast of Newburg in southern Charles County. Another Charles County easement was donated by David and Dana Posey on 182 acres in Pomfret. The Poseys had previously protected 420 acres. Paul Facchina, Sr. (who has protected a total of 1,560 acres), Charles McPherson, and Paul Facchina, Jr. donated an easement on 79 acres consisting of wildlife habitat, tall grass meadows, three ponds, mature forests and a tributary to Ward Run. To the south, Jim Lorenzi and Wayne Wilkerson, who have protected a total of 370 acres, donated an easement on 80 acres of forest and 24 acres of fields which borders Hancock Run in the upper Nanjemoy Creek watershed. Also in rural Nanjemoy, Tim Lessner, Joe Beuchert and Cindy Thorne donated an easement on 38 forested acres that contain a tributary of the Potomac River.

In St. Mary's County, Wayne Wilkerson and Kent Chadwick protected 34 acres that adjoin 90 acres that they previously placed under MET easement and which are one-quarter mile upstream from the Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area. To the north of this property, in Prince George's County, Karen Thomas and Gary Rubino protected 71 forested acres near Cedarville State Forest. Ms. Thomas and Mr. Rubino have also previously placed 66 acres in Accokeek under MET easement.

2007

A total of 5 properties, totaling 683.74 acres, were permanently protected in the southern region in FY 2007. Many of the properties added to the southern region portfolio in FY 2007 are contiguous to other protected lands and protect significant tracts of forest.

Two of the 5 southern region easements recorded in FY 2007 are located in Charles County, totaling 481 acres. The 362-acre Facchina easement property protects a portion of Chesapeake Bay frontage and extensive woodlands. The Wilkerson and Lorenzi easement protects 119 acres of woodlands off Holly Springs Road in Nanjemoy.

The Bay Land Trust of Anne Arundel County protected their 33.27-acre Bay Ridge woodland to further protect water quality along Lake Ogleton and the Severn River. A 98.56-acre woodland conservation easement property owned by Constellation Power Source Generation, Inc. buffers Nabbs Creek and the North Branch Patapsco River.

Gary Rubino and Karen Thomas donated their third conservation easement in Prince George's County protecting 70.91 acres of which 65 acres are forested.

2008

This fiscal year saw increased acreage protected in the southern region, bolstered by the significant Contee Farm easement in Anne Arundel County. A total of 4 properties, totaling 894.075 acres, were permanently protected in the southern region in FY 2008.

In St. Mary's County Paul Facchina protected a 179.5-acre forested property with Chesapeake Bay frontage and forest interior dwelling bird species habitat. The Facchina property is adjacent to 240 acres protected by MET and 105 acres protected by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

Two Charles County properties were permanently protected by conservation easements in FY 2008, totaling 135.57 acres. The largest of these, the 104-acre Chapel Point, LLC property, protects water quality and FIDS habitat in the Chicamuxen Creek watershed, a tributary to the tidal Potomac River. Edward and Dusty Huber donated an easement on 31 acres in the Ellenboro Creek watershed, a tributary of Popes Creek and the Potomac River. The Conservancy for Charles County co-holds the Huber easement with the Trust.

Upon purchasing 579 acres of forests and fields in Edgewater, MD, on the Chesapeake's western shoreline, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) granted a conservation easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) in partnership with the Scenic River Land Trust (SRLT). The mostly forested Contee Farm represents the largest area under a Forest Stewardship Plan in central Maryland and lies at the edge of rapidly expanding development southward from Annapolis. Its addition to SERC's existing properties, this acquisition will form a contiguous watershed landscape that extends across some 4 miles of fields, forests, and wetlands to Chesapeake Bay. Combined with the center's existing 2,075 acres the site has immense ecological and historical value and is a model of a protected landscape for ecological research, environmental education and public access.

Stewardship and Monitoring

The donation of a conservation easement to MET is a major investment in the continued health, beauty, and enjoyment of Maryland's open spaces and the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting one's property does not stop with the signing of the conservation easement. MET and cooperating local land trust staff and volunteers continue to look after the land on an ongoing basis, through regular monitoring of conservation properties. Stewardship involves a larger set of issues, which can include addressing landowner questions or concerns, or requests for MET to approve various proposed structures or activities on the property. MET works with local land trusts in the Maryland Land Trust Alliance to ensure that stewardship and monitoring procedures comply with or exceed national guidelines.



Horses pasture on the 264-acre Voss property in Harford County.

In FY 2006, MET and local land trusts monitored 256 conservation easement properties comprising 32,812 acres of farm, forest and open space. MET staff conducted 49% (127) of these visits, and a paid MET intern assisted with 7% (17). MET volunteers conducted another 29% (73), and local land trust staff and volunteers inspected another 15% (39). Of the 868 conservation easements held by MET in 2006, 29% were inspected. This is a significant improvement from FY05 in which 157 easements (19%) were visited.

In FY 2007, MET and its local partners monitored 178 easement properties, comprising 23,316 acres of preserved land. MET Staff visited 51% (91), MET volunteers 34% (61), and local land trust cooperators 15% (26). Monitoring performance declined in FY 2007 due to decreased staff resources and external support.

In 2008, 186 easements were monitored by MET and cooperators

throughout the State. MET staff visited 105 properties, were assisted Local Land Trusts (LLTs) with monitoring an additional 18 properties, and LLTs monitored 13 properties on their own. MET trained another cohort of 20 monitoring volunteers in April, and together with existing volunteers they visited and verified compliance with easement restrictions on another 50 properties. In total, compliance was reviewed on 19,265 acres of open space land, corresponding to 16.1% of land area under easement and 19% of easements recorded by MET. Staff is currently developing strategies to address increasing monitoring demands, including increasing the capacity of local land trusts to monitor properties co-held with MET and increasing the use of digital technologies such as GIS and biannually acquired aerial photography. At the end of FY 2008, MET was tracking 40 active stewardship issues, enforcement matters, and violations on easement properties.

The Maryland Land Trust Alliance



The Maryland Land Trust Alliance (MLTA) is an informal association of national, state, regional and local land conservation organizations working in Maryland. MLTA helps individual land trusts protect the forest, farms, wetlands, open space and wildlife habitat important to the state and their local communities. The Alliance offers technical assistance, training, funding and cooperative stewardship services.

Training Events

- April 8th, 2005 "Targeting for Donated Conservation Easements"
- September 29, 2005 "Donated Conservation Easements A Refresher Course" and "Stewarding Easements: Evaluating House Site and Amendment Proposals"
- November 18, 2005 "LIP, CHIP, & FLEP
- February 27, 2006 "A Conservation Conversation with IRS & Conservation Partners LLC"
- September 25, 2006 "Developing your Organization to do Advocacy"
- August 10, 2007 "Mission, Planning and Capacity"
- June 10 & 11, 2008 "Conservation Stewardship and Training Volunteer Monitors" in partnership with the Lower Shore Land Trust

MLTA Annual Conferences

May 5 & 6, 2006, Chesapeake Beach Resort and Spa, Charles County May 9 & 10, 2007, Kent Manor Inn, Kent County June 6, 2008, Howard County Conservancy, Howard County

MET hosts an annual conference for land conservation professionals to provide opportunities to learn about national practices, local challenges and shared experiences. The members of the land trust community, local government and conservation organizations are the targeted audience for this conference.

Topics included:

- land trust community capabilities
- building capacity of land trusts
- history of the Bay and its changing land and water conditions,
- linking land protection and clean water,
- · refining standards for natural resource protection
- what it means to be a land trust board member
- how climate change impacts the land conservation movement
- stewardship challenges
- ways in which to interest diverse groups of people in environmental concerns
- how a land trust can apply for and achieve accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation commission.
 The Keynote Speaker in 2006 was Rand Wentworth, President of

the Land Trust Alliance.
The Land Trust
Alliance has worked
for more than 25
years with the national
land conservation
community c o m p r i s e d o f



dedicated land conservation professionals, volunteers and supporters - to quickly, effectively and permanently save our most valued natural places across America. The Land Trust Alliance has made regular presentations at the Maryland Conferences to foster strong support between grassroots land trust organizations and national policy.

Field trips in 2007 gave the attendees opportunity to experience waterways and forest lands from the context of land preservation. Speakers from local government gave advice on incorporating land conservation goals into land use planning and zoning.

The event in 2008 was marked by unprecedented support from land trusts to host a conference event and was a return to community organization.

Land Trust Assistance Program Overview

Maryland is home to over fifty land trusts. Land trusts are not-for-profit corporations designed to protect land from development, using conservation easements, gifts or purchases of land, limited development, conservation buyers, or promotion of existing local, state, or Federal easement programs. These land conservation organizations range from small groups operated solely by volunteers to large land trusts with multiple professional staff.

The Land Trust Assistance Program supports the work of Maryland's Land Trusts. MET provides direct technical assistance to these organizations by helping them to continue operating smoothly, to increase the pace and sustainability of their work, and to navigate their way through opportunities and challenges.

The program is funded by a grant from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Coastal Program from the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Land Trust Assistance Program delivers many functions and also acts as a service center for the Land Trust Alliance. In this role MET helps to promote land conservation and a number of national

programs, specifically the Land Trust Standards and Practices and the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The Land Trust Assistance Program supports local land trusts by providing:

- Technical Assistance technical information and training, including an annual land trust conference.
- Creation and Support of Land Trusts organizational support and growth, stewardship training and support of conservation easements, Janice Hollmann Grants and the Aileen Hughes Award.
- Targeting of Conservation Easements information on State land conservation priorities.
- Local Land Trust Assessment organizational support to ensure implementation of Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices 2004.
- Conservation Easements and Land Conservation – new easements and easement amendments, Land Trust Grant Fund.

* Not a land trust but involved in land preservation

Statewide

American Farmland Trust

http://www.farmland.org Jim Baird jbaird@farmland.org 202-378-1235 1200 18th Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036

The Biophilia Foundation, Inc.*

www.biophiliafoundation.org
Richard Pritzlaff
biophilia@verizon.net
410-315-9876
61 Cornhill Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage

http://www.cheswildlife.org Chris Pupke cpupke@cheswildlife.org P.O. Box 174546 Pennsylvania Ave. Easton MD 21601

The Conservation Fund

http://www.conservationfund.org/midatlantic/maryland
Bill Crouch
BCrouch@MDTCF.org
(443) 482-2826
410 Severn Avenue Suite 204
Annapolis, MD 21403

The Humane Society of the United States Wildlife Land Trust

http://www.wlt.org/ Jim Reed jreed@hsus.org 1-800-729-SAVE 2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037

Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC)

http://www.magicalliance.org Geoff Patton magicalliance@live.com 2208 Parker Ave Wheaton, MD 20902

The Nature Conservancy

http://www.nature.org/wherewework/ northamerica/states/maryland/ 301-897-8570 5410 Grosvenor Lane Suite 100 Bethseda, MD 20814

Patuxent Conservation Corps, Inc.

www.mdconserve.org Steve Putman Sputman2005@comcast.net P.O. Box 336 Glenelg, MD 21738

Trust for Public Land

http://www.tpl.org Kent Whitehead kent.whitehead@tpl.org 660 Pennsylvannia Avenue SE Suite 401 Washington, DC 20003

Central Region - Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, Baltimore City

Baltimore Green Space

Miriam Avins bgreenspace@gmail.com 410-235-8755 619 Homestead Street Baltimore, MD 21218

Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association*

http://www.baltimorewaters.org/ Phil Lee plee@moffattnichol.com 410-563-7300 2700 Lighthouse Point Road East #501 Baltimore, MD 21224

Caves Valley Land Trust

Mitchell Kolkin MKolkin@Venable.com 2522 Caves Valley Road Owings Mills, MD 21117

Cecil Land Trust

http://www.cecillandtrust.org Bill and Phyllis Kilby phyllis.kilby@zoominternet.net 410-392-9667 135 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

Charm City Land Trusts, Inc

http://www.parksandpeople.org/cclt Jim Kelly jkelly@ubalt.edu 443-415-8817 UB Law Comm. Dev. Clinic 40 W. Chase Stree Baltimore, MD 20201

Greater Sandy Springs Green Space, Inc.

www.sandyspringgreenspace.org Joli McCathran kmccathran@erols.com P.O. Box 92 Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

http://www.gunpowderfalls.org Charlie Conklin cconklin@comcast.net PO Box 9733 Towson, MD 21284

Harford Land Trust, Inc

http://www.harfordlandtrust.org Peg Niland pniland@harfordlandtrust.org 410-836-2103 P.O Box 385 Churchville, MD 21028

Howard County Conservancy

www.hcconservancy.org
Meg Schumacher
meg.schumacher@hcconservancy.org
PO Box 175
Woodstock, MD 21163

The Kensington Land Trust

Helen Wilkes Hcw933@juno.com 301-933-0859 301-404-6700 P.O. Box 602 Kensington, MD 20895

Land Preservation Trust

Edward A. Halle, Jr. nedhalle@aol.com (410) 771-9900 Fowley and Beckley, P.A. Executive Plaza 1 11350 McCormick Rd Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Long Green Valley Conservancy

http://www.lgvc.org Elaine Christ 410-461-6917 PO Box 37 Hydes, MD 21082

The Manor Conservancy

http://manorconservancy.org James Constable jwconstable@wcslaw.com 410-659-1315 PO Box 408 Monkton, MD 21111

Mt. Washington Preservation Society

Lynn Strott lwstrott@hotmail.com P.O. Box 20851 Baltimore, MD 21209

Neighborspace of Baltimore County, Inc.

www.neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org Michele Frome michele.frome@verizon.net P.O. Box 6715 Towson, MD 21285

Rockburn Land Trust

Tim Greisman tgreisman@northmarq.com 410-796-4551 6560 Belmont Woods Road Elkridge, MD 21075

The Valleys Planning Council, Inc.*

http://www.thevpc.org
Teresa Moore
moorevpc@comcast.net
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118 W Pennsylvania Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

Eastern Region - Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot Wicomico, and Worchester Counties

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

www.eslc.org Rob Etgen retgen@eslc.org 410-827-9756 PO Box 169 Queenstown, MD 21658

Lower Shore Land Trust

http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org Kate Patton Islt@intercom.net 410-641-4467 9931 Old Ocean City Blvd. Berlin, MD 21811

Southern Region - Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St Mary's Counties

The African American Land Trust, Inc.

www.blackschesapeake.org Viincent Leggett vleggett@blackschesapeake.org 410-269-7815 PO Box 3576 Annapolis, MD 21403

American Chestnut Land Trust

http://acltweb.org Karen Edgecombe kedgecombe@acltweb.org 410-414-3400 PO Box 2363 Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Annapolis Conservancy Board

www.annapolis.gov/boards_info. asp?page=1699&board=1496 Steve Carr stevecarr757@comcast.net 410-757-5916 Government of the City of Annapolis 160 Duke of Gloucester Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Bay Land Trust

www.baylandtrust.org Sandra Sweeney sandrasweeney@verizon.net 410-267-7028 PO Box 4096 Annapolis, MD 21403

The Black Swamp Creek Land Trust, Inc.

Joanne Flynn jflynn1111@erols.com 301-888-1281 P.O. Box 183 Aquasco, MD 20608

Calvert Farmland Trust

www.calvertag.com/Organizations/Farmland_Trust.htm
Marty Davis-Daniels
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PO Box 3448
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Conservancy for Charles County, Inc.

www.conservecharles.org Vivian Mills vmills@conservecharles.org PO Box 1358 Waldorf, MD 20604

Cove Point Natural Heritage

www.covepoint-trust.org Robert Boxwell CPNHT@comcast.net 410-394-1300 PO Box 336 Lusby, MD 20657

Crownsville Conservancy

www.crownsvilleconservancy.org Scott Hymes scotthymes@comcast.net 410-923-0931 841 Oak Trail Crownsville, MD 21032

Magothy River Land Trust

www.magothyriver.org/mrlt Pete Culp peteculp@aol.com 410.647.6254 P.O. Box 126 Severna Park, MD 21146

North County Land Trust

www.ncltrust.org
Rebecca Kolberg
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Pasadena, MD 21122

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

www.patuxent-tidewater.org Susan Charkes sdc@patuxent-tidewater.org P.O. Box 1955 Leonardtown, MD 20650

Scenic Rivers Land Trust

www.srlt.org Sam Shropshire shropshire@srlt.org 410-424-4000 PO Box 2008 Annapolis, MD 21404

Southern Calvert Land Trust

www.southerncalvertlandtrust.com Ken Spring sclt@hughes.net 410-326-2198 PO Box 1745 Lusby, MD

Western Region - Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Allegheny Highlands Conservancy www.alleghenyhighlandsconservancy.org Kevin Dodge kevin.dodge@garrettcollege.edu 301-501-1816 PO Box 333

McHenry, MD 21541

Carroll County Land Trust

Ned Cueman ecueman@comcast.net 410-848-8247 PO Box 2137 Westminster, MD 21158

Carrollton Manor Land Trust

www.cmlandtrust.org Joy Clem jclem@xecu.net PO Box 25 Adamstown, MD 21710

Catoctin Land Trust

www.catoctinlandtrust.org Don Briggs dbriggs@briggsassoc.com 301-271-2823 12805-A Mink Farm Road Thurmont, MD 21788

Potomac Conservancy

www.potomac.org Kelly Watkinson watkinson@potomac.org 301-608-1188 8601 Georgia Avenue Suite 612 Silver Spring, MD 20910

South Mountain Heritage Society

www.burkittsville-md.gov/smhs.htm Catherine Cox Murray blycox@comcast.net PO Box 509 Burkittsville, MD 21718

Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy, Inc.

Perry Kapsch perry2845@aol.com 301-424-4084 15220 DuFief Drive North Potomac, MD 20878



Jon Chapman, MET Monitoring and Stewardship Coordinator, conducts a volunteer monitor training with the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust in southern Maryland.

Janice Hollmann Grant Program

The Janice Hollman Grant Program is part of the Land Trust Assistance Program provided by MET to support land trusts throughout Maryland. The grants, named for a woman who exemplified citizen leadership of local land trusts in Maryland, allow land trusts to



Ed Crawford and Jack Lattimore of NeighborSpace of Baltimore County display their Janice Hollmann award at the 2007 MLTA conference.

increase their education and outreach activities in pursuit of conservation easement donations. Hollman co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission. She was Izaac Walton League's Conservationist of the Year in 1989 and the Capital newspaper's Person of the Year for 1990. Janice died of cancer in April 1990. Our tribute to Janice Hollmann is this annual grant program named in her honor for those local land trusts continuing in her footsteps.

These grants are usually targeted towards land trusts that demonstrate easement solicitation skills operating in regions of significant land conservation potential. The purpose of the Hollmann program is to build the capabilities of the local organizations through small matching grants, with a particular focus on start-up assistance for new land trusts and fostering collaborations among neighboring organizations.

The total funding per year increased from \$22,000 to \$30,000, allowing the average grant distribution to increase to \$5000 per award. The program

has supported 20 organizations between FY2006 and FY2008. The grants funded a variety of eligible costs, including staff positions, landowner outreach programs, office supplies, insurance and internships. Funding for the Janice Hollmann Grants is provided by the State Highway Administration.

	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006
African American Land Trust	\$5000.00	\$5000.00	\$3500.00
Alleghany Highlands Conservancy	\$5000.00		
Baltimore Green Space	\$5000.00		
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage			\$3000.00
Greater Sandy Springs Green Space		\$1500.00	
Harford Land Trust		\$5000.00	
Howard County Conservancy	\$5000.00	\$5000.00	\$2500.00
Long Green Valley Conservancy			\$900.00
Lower Shore Land Trust	\$5000.00		
Mid-Maryland Land Trust			\$3000.00
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc	\$5000.00		
Patuxent Conservation Corps			
Rockburn Land Trust			\$2800.00
Scenic Rivers Land Trust			\$2800.00
Southern Calvert Land Trust			
The American Chestnut Land Trust		\$5000.00	
The Bay Ridge Trust			
The Catoctin Land Trust		\$3500.00	
The Land Preservation Trust		\$5000.00	
Valleys Planning Council			\$3500.00
Total Awarded each year	\$30000.00	\$30000.00	\$22000.00

Land Trust Grant Fund

The Land Trust Grant Fund was established by the Legislature in 1990 to make loans and grants available to land trusts to help them acquire easements and land. The Land Trust Grant Fund loan is highly leveraged. The Fund provides on average only one fifth of the project purchase price; the balance coming from the local community and other private fund sources. \$2.7 million dollars have been lent from the Fund since its formation, matched by \$9.4 million from conservation partners.

The Land Trust Grant Fund has worked effectively as a rapid response land preservation tool. The Fund is available to land trusts at 0% interest when valuable resource lands are threatened by development. Funding from other State programs is not available at such short notice. 12 projects have been completed with full reimbursement and perpetual land protection placed on 1,639 acres prior to the start of FY06.

One project was completed during FY07 on 79 acres in the Bay Ridge community in Anne Arundel County by repayment of the loan. A conservation easement on the property was recorded on March 12, 2002 shortly after the Land Trust Grant Fund loan was made. Repayment of the loan was completed within the loan period in FY07.



Bay grasses grow along the shoreline of Gross Creek on the Krech property in Talbot County.

Repayments of \$345,860.00 have been made during FY06, FY07 and FY08. There are outstanding loans totaling \$379,140.00. Payment is anticipated shortly in FY09 to repay the loan to Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, Inc. and to Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust.

Three projects remain in progress to achieve perpetual land protection, although the loan has been repaid on one project. The land is owned in fee-simple by conservation or preservation organizations, with minimal threats of development. No new projects have been funded since 2004.

Active Project Organization	S FY06-FY08 Date and Amount loaned	Date of Payment	Amount Repaid	Balance	Date Repayment Due
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, I	\$400,000.00 nc.	3/10/2006	\$150,000.00	\$250,000.00	6/30/2008
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust	9/19/2001 \$250,000.00	8/9/2005 6/7/2006	\$10,860.00 \$110,000.00	\$129,140.00	
Bay Ridge Trust	3/18/2002 \$300,000.00	1/15/2006	\$75,000.00	\$0	1/31/2006
Trust for Appalachia Trail Lands	an 5/27/1998 \$81,300.00		Paid in full prior to 7/1/2005	\$0	

The balance of the Land Trust Grant Fund at the end of FY08 was \$1,327,431 on the Special Fund Statement of Unobligated Fund Balance. This balance includes interest held in the MET Reserve Account M0563.

Outstanding Loans

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage	\$250,000.00
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust	\$129,140.00
	\$379,140.00

The total amount of the Fund is \$1,706,571.00 (06/30/2008)

Awards Program Dillon Award

Alverta and Louise Dillon, sisters and retired school teachers, donated a perpetual conservation easement and then bequeathed their entire Garrett County property to MET in 1984. Alverta and Louise were dedicated naturalists and were enthusiastic about conservation and enhancement of the many resources found on their land. Their generous bequest is maintained as an endowment to support the activities and mission of MET, in accordance with the wishes of the Dillon family. The Dillon Award is made annually by MET to a landowner for outstanding conservation.



Sisters Kathryn Weise and Carol Bartram were the recipients of the 2008 Dillon Award. (L to R) Adam Block, MET; Kathryn Weise, Landowner; Virginia Weise, Legacy Property Owner; Carol Bartram, Landowner; Liz McDowell, Allegheny Highlands Conservancy

2006 Award Recipient: Virginia C. Quigley (Anne Arundel County)

2007 Award Recipient: Charlotte Staelin (Kent County)

2008 Award Recipients: Carol Bartram and Kathryn Weise (Garrett County)

Aileen Hughes Award

MET and the MLTA present the Aileen Hughes Award annually to honor the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the conservation movement. Aileen was a supporter of women's and civil rights, as well as the protection of our State's natural and cultural resources. Aileen was the President of the American Chestnut Land Trust for many years. The Aileen Hughes Award is given to recipients for their leadership roles in the land trust community. The Award is presented as a cash sum to the organization represented by the individual and is funded by non-state funds from MET.

The criteria are:

- Individual representing a Maryland local land trust
- For the successful completion of a conservation project
- Projects should be within the last 2-3 years and include land transactions, outreach and community education, funding, land management and legislative achievement.
- The individual and/or project should demonstrate some of the following: leadership, innovation, high level of performance and/or establishing a partnership.

2006 Award Recipient: David Miller-Harford County Land Trust

2007 Award Recipient: Peg Niland-Harford County Land Trust

2008 Award Recipients: Meredith Lathbury-Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Ann Jones-Howard County Conservancy



MET Board of Trustees Vice-Chairman Jim O'Connell presents the Aileen Hughes award to 2008 recipients Meredith Lathbury (R) and Ann Jones (L).

Keep Maryland Beautiful Program

MET's Keep Maryland Beautiful Program, funded by the State Highway Administration, presents the Margaret Rosch Jones Award and the Bill James Environmental Grants to volunteer or non-profit groups who carry out environmental education projects.

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award was established in 1976 and is given in Margaret Rosch Jones' memory to non-profit groups or communities that show continuing plans for a project that has already demonstrated a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue. Born in 1906, Margaret Jones was dedicated to the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay. She had a genius IQ, wrote poetry, and was a self-taught Latin scholar. One of her "pet projects" was a statewide contest with prizes for winner of gasoline station inspections. Margaret was the executive director and moving spirit of the Keep Maryland Beautiful Program for many years. MET hopes to remind citizens of her devotion, energy, and ingenuity by presenting an award in her name of up to \$2,000 to

a group whose voluntary activities personify those attributes that Margaret Jones brought to her work.

The Bill James Environmental Grants are given in memory of William S. James and are grants of up to \$1,000 for proposed environmental education projects by school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other non-profit youth groups. Born in Aberdeen in 1914, Bill James studied law at the University of Maryland and then practiced law in Bel Air for 38 years. He served as President of the Maryland Senate and as such was the principal architect of many of Maryland's most important environmental laws, including wetlands law, Program Open Space, and agricultural land preservation. Senator James drafted legislation to create the Maryland Environmental Trust, incorporating the activities of the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful. He was a man of vision who will not be forgotten for his contributions to the betterment of Maryland's environment.

Organization Irvine Nature Center	FY2008 \$500.00	FY2007	FY2006
Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association	\$1,500.00		
Environmental Concern Inc.	\$1000.00		
Boy Scouts of America - Venturing Crew 202		\$1,200.00	
Crellin Elementary School		\$1000.00	
St. mary's River Watershed Association		\$800.00	
Izzak Walton League of America - Talbot County Chapter		\$500.00	
George's Creek Watershed Association			\$500.00
Herald Harbor Citizen's Association			\$500.00
St. Mary's County Forestry Board			\$750.00
Talbot County Cooperative Extension			\$750.00
Total Awarded for Year	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00
Bill James Grants Recipients Organization Century High School Environmental	FY2008 \$750.00	FY2007	FY2006
Century Figh School Fhyironmenial	\$750.00		
	\$1,200,00	\$600.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA	\$350.00	\$600.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2	\$350.00 \$350.00	\$600.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2 North Harford High School - Monarch Butterfly Garden	\$350.00	,	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2 North Harford High School - Monarch Butterfly Garden Alliance for Sustainable Communities	\$350.00 \$350.00	\$900.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2 North Harford High School - Monarch Butterfly Garden Alliance for Sustainable Communities Queen Anne School	\$350.00 \$350.00	\$900.00 \$500.00	
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2	\$350.00 \$350.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Committee of the NHS Volunteer Frederick Colchester Farm CSA North Harford High School - Environmental Class 2 North Harford High School - Monarch Butterfly Garden Alliance for Sustainable Communities Queen Anne School Gwynn Park High SAchool	\$350.00 \$350.00	\$900.00 \$500.00	\$1,000.00 \$500.00

Stewardship Fund

As of June 30, 2008, MET has protected nearly 117,500 acres on 958 properties statewide. MET is charged with monitoring and stewarding these properties in perpetuity. Both monitoring and stewardship require considerable resources, as MET must maintain the capability to perform these duties 10, 20, even 100 years into the future. The Stewardship Fund was established to ensure that the conservation easements that are so carefully craft by landowners and MET will be upheld long into the future. The contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will never be diverted to any other state agency or any other fund of the State of Maryland. Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2008 a total of \$20,562 was contributed to the Stewardship Fund.

Contributors (FY 2006 – FY 2008)

Scott and Carol Bartram Margaret Bramble Frederick and Nancy Brokaw Mark and Victoria Collins Wilson Coudon Martha Furman Barbara Hale **Dusty Huber Edward Huber** James Lighthizer, Jr. Dr. W. Robert Shortall Alan Stonebraker William Susen Cathy Tipper Washington Brick & Terra Cotta Company Mareen Waterman Marian Waterman Dr. Kathryn Weise Ward and Sheila White Julia Jackson Young



An MET "Protected Forever" sign is proudly displayed on a Baltimore County property.

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Joan Lally- Monitoring and Stewardship Specialist

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